20035 Near+Middle East 1948-1950

7/24/1950 - Prepared for Secretary by [illegible] office — copy 5 of 7 copies

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY VWOLFE DATE 6/1/82
E.O. 12356 DATE
IS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

158 R

S/P Lot 64 D 563 [Box 20035] "Near + Middle East, 1948-1950"

GREECE, TURKEY AND IRAN

We are, of course, watching with particular care developments in the Greek, Turkish and Iranian chain across the Southern edge of the Soviet bloc, all three of which are included among the most likely targets of any further Soviet aggression. The reaction of these countries to the action of the UN and the United States in Korea was one of complete approval, and it is evident that they are greatly encouraged by the forceful steps we have taken. They have all urged that they be included in some form of security arrangement underwritten by the United States, such as the Atlantic Pact, and their disappointment in our inability to do this has undoubtedly been mitigated in some measure by the evidence in Korea that a formal security arrangement is not necessary for the United States to come to the assistance of victims of aggression.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/28/71
PER VELIOTES OFFICE NEA
72015

The reaction of the peoples concerned has naturally and understandably been mixed with greater fears of Soviet aggression against them and concern that a world conflict will emerge. The uncertainty in this regard has reflected itself in the usual forms of rising prices, hoarding, and heavy purchases of gold and other tangible and movable assets. In balance, however, the atmosphere prevailing in Greece, Turkey and Iran is quite as good as might be hoped for. There is certainly no evidence of wavering in determination to resist the continued

pressures

UNCLASSIFIED

pressures which are being applied.

There have been disquieting reports of troop movements in the Balkans and of possibilities that Greek guerrillas now in certain Satellite states might attempt to reactivate guerrilla warfare in Greece. Communist propaganda to the effect that Greece is planning aggressive activities, contrary to the United Nations Balkan Commission's report that this would be impossible, indeed sounds an ominous note. However, there is no firm evidence to justify the conclusion that armed aggression against Greece in the immediate future is likely. This is not to say that such aggression in one form or another is not possible.

In Iran it is known that substantial Soviet forces have been maintained in the area north of Azerbaijan for several years, and that these forces would be capable of military action against Iran at any time. There have been no recent indications, however, of unusual troop movements which might precede an armed invasion. Since there are no convenient Satellites, Soviet aggression against Iran other than overt invasion would include the instigation of internal revolution and the use of "free Iranians" in the Soviet Union. It is believed, however, that the Iranian forces are capable under present circumstances of maintaining internal order in the absence of direct Soviet intervention. As in the case of Greece and Iran, the Soviet Union continues the war of nerves against Turkey through propaganda and by the shuffling of troops near the Turkish border.

UNCLASSIFIED